

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **BETWEEN CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, AND THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA**

#### **I. Introduction**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the Resources Agency of California (RA) is to advance environmental education efforts throughout California, facilitated by the creation of the California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN).

#### **II. CEEIN**

**A. Vision:** CEEIN affirms that education is essential to developing a thorough understanding of and respect for the environment, leading to ecologically and economically sound decisions and actions that conserve and protect the earth and its inhabitants.

**B. Mission:** To develop, enhance, and advance environmental education efforts throughout California by collaborating, providing leadership and sharing its members' resources, programs, and products on State Environmental Education.

#### **C. Goals and Objectives**

1. To enhance cooperation and communication among the CDE, Cal/EPA, CDFA, RA, and other governmental agencies by:

- a. Promoting collaboration and facilitating agency cooperation to maximize efficiency and minimize redundancy in the development of environmental education programs and materials.
- b. Holding monthly meetings for members to report on their current environmental education activities.

c. Subcommittees formed to direct work on special projects and issues.

2. To identify and promote existing statewide networks and encourage information exchange and dissemination, such as, but not limited to the following:

- California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network and its Resource Directory
- Department of Water Resources' Water Education Committee
- Project WILD Facilitators
- Project Learning Tree Facilitators
- Project WET Facilitators
- Golden State Environmental Education Consortium (GSEEC)
- State Plan for Environmental Education network
- California Outdoor School Administration (COSA)
- Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE)
- California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Conferences
- California Classroom Science Newsletter (CSTA bi-monthly newspaper publication)

3. To provide a leadership role in statewide environmental education efforts by:

a. Providing input and making recommendations on relevant Environmental Education (EE) legislation.

b. Assisting in the development and implementation of EE policy such as:

- the State Plan for EE, *Education & the Environment: Strategic Initiatives for Enhancing Education in California* (2002)
- AB 1548, Pavley bill, requiring development of environmental principles aligned to state standards that will direct state agencies and align state agency EE programs and materials.

c. Providing technical assistance and support towards other high priority statewide environmental education initiatives such as regional collaboration, grassroots efforts, etc.

4. To encourage and support evaluation models that assess the effectiveness of environmental education programs and products such as the use of the Standardized Evaluation Tool on K-12 supplemental EE curricula to determine the quality of curricula for inclusion in the environmental education Compendia series.

5. To promote equitable involvement of California's diverse student population in quality environmental education programs by:

a. Involvement with the U.S. EPA National Environmental Education Advancement Project's "Environmental Education Training and Partnership."

b. Providing outreach through conferences such as California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE) conference.

6. To promote public / private partnerships to leverage resources, including but not limited to: The Walt Disney Company's *Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge*, Creek Week, Coastal Clean Up Day, Earth Day, etc.

7. To provide consistent organizational structure to conduct CEEIN business in a professional manner.

a. Research, develop, and periodically update CEEIN's procedures manual and historical records.

b. Provide CEEIN Members with meeting logistics and agendas, minutes from past meetings, and monthly agency updates in a manner that is conducive to efficient planning and communication.

#### **D. Responsibilities**

The signatories agree to the following responsibilities:

1. Coordination and oversight:

The signatories will share the responsibility for implementation of this agreement. The coordination and oversight will rotate between Cal/EPA and The Resources Agency with the cooperation of the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Education on a two-year cycle.

2. Personnel commitment:

The signatories agree to designate personnel from appropriate agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to participate in CEEIN, and at least one CEEIN committee, as necessary to carry out the goals and objectives of CEEIN.

3. Information sharing:

Each agency, department, board and commission will provide CEEIN with a periodic update of its current and ongoing environmental education efforts. Each will serve as a distributor for all CEEIN materials, including a link from each agency, department, board and commission web page to CEEIN's website.

4. Funding:

The signatories of this MOU agree to work together in obtaining funds for CEEIN efforts and contributing resources necessary to carry out CEEIN's goals and objectives.

5. Space and Equipment:

Each agency, department, board and commission will provide office/meeting space and equipment as needed.

6. Deliverables:

The signatories shall follow all copyright procedures laws and retain the right to, sell or otherwise use all deliverables developed jointly for purposes of CEEIN. Environmental education materials developed collaboratively by CEEIN for dissemination outside CEEIN shall be approved by the signatories for review and formal approval before dissemination.

## **E. Terms**

This MOU becomes effective on the date of signatures by all parties. Any party upon 60 days prior written notice to the other signatories may terminate this agreement.

## **F. Amendments**

All amendments, modifications or extensions to this agreement shall be by mutual consent of the parties and shall be in writing.

## **G. Signatures**

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**Mike Chrisman**  
**Secretary for Resources**

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

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**A.G. Kawamura**  
**Secretary for Food and Agriculture**

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Alan C. Lloyd**  
**Secretary for Environmental Protection**

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Jack O'Connell**  
**Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**Date:**\_\_\_\_\_